



2016 Agency Request Legislative Proposals

Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

August 7, 2015

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2015 Proposal Timeline

- June 9 –draft proposal submitted
- June 17 – EMT review
- **August 7 – FWC review**
- August 21 – FWC approval
- September 18 – submit to OFM/GOV
(with fiscal impacts)
- October 2– submit to OFM/GOV
(without fiscal impacts)

Context for the 2016 Session



- ⦿ Supplemental budget year
- ⦿ 60-day “short session”
- ⦿ Typical requests include:
 - Emergencies
 - Emergent issues
 - Technical changes
- ⦿ Bills that did not pass are retained for the following short session
- ⦿ Special session(s) possible

2016 Agency-Request Summary



1. Steelhead License Plate
2. Unlawful Hunting Wild Birds
3. Wild Salmon Definition
4. Fish & Shellfish Records
5. Criminal Wildlife Penalty License Suspensions

Steelhead License Plate



Problem:

- ◉ Additional funding is needed to support key conservation activities for Washington's iconic state fish.

Proposed Solution:

- ◉ Create a new steelhead background license plate to serve as ongoing funding for:
 - Steelhead stock assessments,
 - Evaluations of fishery impacts, and
 - Studies to understand interactions between wild and hatchery steelhead.

Unlawful Hunting Wild Birds



Problem:

- ⦿ A loophole exists in statute where it is unclear that hunters are required to purchase a turkey tag in addition to their small game license.

Proposed Solution:

- ⦿ A technical amendment to RCW 77.15.400(1) to align with other license regulations that would require the purchase of a turkey tag with the small game license to prevent violators from escaping penalties.



Wild Salmon Definition

Problem:

- “Wild salmon” is defined as “a salmon with an unclipped adipose fin” and does not take into account when a person clips the adipose fin post-harvest to cover unlawful take.

Proposed Solution:

- A technical amendment to RCW 77.15.370(1)(g) to close a loophole and clarify that any salmon without a healed scar at the adipose fin would also be considered wild salmon.

Fish & Shellfish Records



Problem:

- Seafood traceability is challenging and falsification of records can occur when fish and shellfish records are in a separate location from the product.

Proposed Solution:

- A technical amendment to RCW 77.15.568(1)(c) that requires records remain with fish or shellfish at all times until they are no longer in possession of fish receiver.

Criminal Wildlife Penalty License Suspensions



Problem:

- Current statute has been misinterpreted to mean if a criminal wildlife penalty assessment is paid then an individual will not face a license suspension for their violation.

Proposed Solution:

- Technical amendment to RCW 77.15.420(6) to clarify that hunting license suspensions are in addition to a criminal wildlife penalty.

Questions?